

1. A method for creating a call processing control record and processing a call from a calling party to a user in accordance with the call processing control record, the method comprising:

- (a) receiving schedule data transmitted from an electronic scheduler, where the schedule data comprises at least a portion of a user's schedule;
- (b) comparing the schedule data with stored data to determine if the schedule data differs from the stored data;
- (c) automatically generating a call processing control record if the schedule data differs from the stored data, where the call processing control record comprises an indication that an announcement should be transmitted to a caller in response to a call being placed to the user during a certain time period and an indication of the user's selection of a particular announcement to be transmitted to the caller;
- (d) storing the call processing control record;
- (e) receiving, at a switch, a call from a calling party;
- (f) accessing the call processing control record after receiving the call;
- (g) transmitting call control information to the switch, the call control information including an indication of the announcement that is to be transmitted to the calling party; and
- (h) transmitting the appropriate announcement to the calling party.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the schedule data is transmitted via a telecommunications network.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the schedule data is transmitted via a computer network.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the schedule data is transmitted via the Internet.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the schedule data is transmitted via a computer network utilizing a TCP/IP protocol.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the schedule data is transmitted via a computer network utilizing a X.25 protocol.
7. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the schedule data in the electronic scheduler prior to (a).
8. The method of claim 1, wherein (f) comprises:
  - (f1) generating a query that is transmitted from a service switching point to a service control point; and
  - (f2) using the service control point to access the call processing control record.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein (h) comprises:
  - (h1) routing the call from the switch to a service node; and
  - (h2) using the service node to transmit the announcement to the calling party.
10. The method of claim 1, wherein (h) comprises:
  - (h1) routing the call from the switch to an intelligent peripheral; and
  - (h2) using the intelligent peripheral to transmit the announcement to the calling party.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the announcement comprises an indication that the user is unavailable.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the announcement comprises an indication of a telephone number at which the user can be reached.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the indication of the user's selection of a particular announcement to be transmitted to the caller signifies that an announcement comprising an indication that the user is unavailable should be transmitted to the caller.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the indication of the user's selection of a particular announcement to be transmitted to the caller signifies that an announcement comprising an indication of a telephone number at which the user can be reached should be transmitted to the caller.

15. A system for creating a call processing control record and processing a call from a calling party to a user in accordance with the call processing control, the system comprising:

means for receiving schedule data transmitted from an electronic scheduler, where the schedule data comprises at least a portion of a user's schedule;

means for comparing the schedule data with stored data to determine if the schedule data differs from the stored data;

means for automatically generating a call processing control record if the schedule data differs from the stored data, where the call processing control record comprises an indication that an announcement should be transmitted to a caller in response to a call being placed to the user during a certain time period and an indication of the user's selection of a particular announcement to be transmitted to the caller;

means for storing the call processing control record;

means for receiving, at a switch, a call from a calling party;  
means for accessing the call processing control record after receiving the call;  
means for transmitting call control information to the switch, the call control information including an indication of the announcement that is to be transmitted to the calling party; and

means for transmitting the appropriate announcement to the calling party.

16. A system for creating a call processing control record comprising:

a call processing control record generator operative to receive schedule data transmitted from an electronic scheduler, where the schedule data comprises at least a portion of a user's schedule; compare the schedule data with stored data to determine if the schedule data differs from the stored data; automatically generate a call processing control record if the schedule data differs from the stored data, where the call processing control record comprises an indication that an announcement should be transmitted to a caller in response to a call being placed to the user during a certain time period and an indication of the user's selection of a particular announcement to be transmitted to the caller; and store the call processing control record.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the call processing control record generator comprises a service management system.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the electronic scheduler comprises a personal computer and a schedule software program.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein the electronic scheduler comprises a portable electronic scheduler.

20. The system of claim 16, further comprising a service node/intelligent peripheral coupled with the call processing control record generator, the service node/intelligent peripheral being responsive to the call processing control record and being operative to transmit an announcement to a calling telephone station in response to the call processing control record.

21. A computer usable medium having computer readable program code embodied therein for creating a call processing control record comprising:

a first computer readable program code for causing a computer to receive schedule data transmitted from an electronic scheduler, where the schedule data comprises at least a portion of a user's schedule;

a second computer readable program code for causing a computer to compare the schedule data with stored data to determine if the schedule data differs from the stored data;

a third computer readable program code for causing a computer to automatically generate a call processing control record if the schedule data differs from the stored data, where the call processing control record comprises an indication that an announcement should be transmitted to a caller in response to a call being placed to the user during a certain time period and an indication of the user's selection of a particular announcement to be transmitted to the caller; and

a fourth computer readable program code for causing a computer to store the call processing control record.